

Building a Brighter Future

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a complex task. To realize its mission, Children's Trust Fund programs:

- Are designed to engage families and others at risk before a crisis occurs.
- Focus on fostering strong bonds and healthy relationships between parents and their children - while addressing the needs of the parents.
- Bolster the chances that children will experience a safe and healthy home, have positive relationships with their parents and a stable family life.

Because of these efforts, thousands of Connecticut children and families are enjoying safer, brighter, more promising futures.



The Children's Trust Fund

Supporting Healthy Families

First Steps

The Nurturing Program

Home Visiting Services

Connecticut Family Development Institute

Help Me Grow

Hartford Community Partnership

Lengthening the Rope

The Kinship Fund

The Fatherhood Provider Network

Shaken Baby Challenge Grant

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Project



Children's Trust Fund

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An agency of the State of Connecticut

This publication is funded by a grant from the
United States Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families.

Nurturing Children.
Strengthening Families.
Supporting Communities.



Children's Trust Fund

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Every year thousands of children are abused or neglected at the hands of their parents or others entrusted with their care. Research has shown that the effects of child abuse or neglect can be long-lasting and devastating to a child.

In 1983 the federal government challenged each state to tackle this problem.

The Connecticut General Assembly met this challenge by establishing the Children's Trust Fund for the sole purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect.

The strategy is working.

Every day, Children's Trust Fund initiatives are demonstrating that well-planned, community-based programs can actually prevent child abuse and neglect from happening.



Putting Theory to Practice

The programs of the Children’s Trust Fund move theory into practice, apply research to program design and, when appropriate, change public policy. Programs focus on:

Direct services. The Children’s Trust Fund provides funding for community-based direct services that assist all families - with a focus on high-risk groups.

Professional Development. The Children’s Trust Fund’s training and technical assistance program provides staff with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage in prevention activities and work with vulnerable populations.

Collaboration. The Children’s Trust Fund’s entire approach is collaborative in nature. It starts with the Children’s Trust Fund Council, a diverse public/private cross-section of state agency leaders, parents and health and human services professionals. The Trust Fund teams with community-based agencies and organizations to carry out its work in cities and towns across Connecticut.



Measuring Success

Children’s Trust Fund programs are researched and evaluated by the University of Hartford Center for Social Research. This research is a vital ingredient in the development of programs that are making a difference in the lives of Connecticut children and families.

For example, research has shown that participants in Trust Fund programming that supports families when their babies are first born experience:

- A far lower rate of physical abuse than the national norm.
- Improvement in parenting capacity, attitudes and behaviors.
- An increase in behaviors that foster social, emotional and cognitive growth.
- Significant improvements in education and employability.

“Without the Nurturing Program

I would be nowhere, out on the

streets without my baby. It taught

me how to be a good parent, to live

up to my responsibilities.”

- Nurturing Program participant

Funding

The Children’s Trust Fund is supported with funding from the State of Connecticut, the federal government, private foundations and individual donors.

Creating Programs That Work

The Children’s Trust Fund is an incubator of new ideas, always looking for new and innovative ways to advance its mission. A wide variety of programs designed to assist Connecticut children and families are at work, including:

Supporting Healthy Families.

Prevents child abuse and neglect by engaging and supporting families when their first babies are born in hospitals across Connecticut. Components include First Steps, The Nurturing Program and Home Visiting Services.

Lengthening the Rope.

Programs built upon the concept that parents need support before they abuse their children. The programs, including MELD, Parents Anonymous and Parents as Teachers, are based upon well-researched and highly regarded models.

The Kinship Fund.

This probate court-administered program awards small grants to aid children living with relatives who are court-appointed guardians. The grants provide for a range of activities including tutoring, camp, extra-curricular experiences and program fees.

Help Me Grow.

Ensures that children and families have access to a system of early identification, prevention and intervention services. Links child health providers, parents and service providers with existing community resources through a toll-free telephone number (1-800-505-7000).

Hartford Community Partnership.

A program that offers preventive services and enhances the use of community-based resources with families that come to the attention of the Department of Children and Families.

Connecticut Family Development Institute.

An interagency initiative providing front-line workers with the skills needed to help individuals and families attain self-reliance and interdependence with their communities.

The Fatherhood Provider Network.

A statewide network of providers who meet regularly to strengthen father-friendly agencies and programming. Co-sponsored by the Department of Social Services.

Shaken Baby Syndrome Challenge Grant.

Collaborative effort to develop, fund and integrate a Statewide Parent Education Campaign within Connecticut’s birthing hospitals. Based upon a highly successful model implemented in New York state.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Project.

A statewide collaboration of more than 20 agencies and organizations to develop targeted primary and secondary prevention programs.

